

LNG project: environmental impacts On Coronado Islands



Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas, A.C.

California Energy Commission's 2005 Energy Report
Scoping Workshop - December 14th, 2004



Outline

- Islands are important
 - Biodiversity
 - Productivity
 - Sustainable development
 - Sovereignty
- Islands are threatened
- Islands are an opportunity
- Islands support high levels of endemic species (plants, vertebrates and invertebrates)



Outline - World



- More than 100,000 islands
- Madagascar: 8,000 species of endemic plants, the double than in the USA
- Philippines: 7,100 islands, more endemic vertebrates (460) than everywhere else
- Threatens: 72% of US extinctions are Hawaiian extinctions
- Last 400 years: 50% of all animal extinctions and 90% of all bird extinctions have occurred on islands
- High vulnerability to introduced species
- Important Exclusive Economic Zones
- High scientific and educational value



Coronado Islands

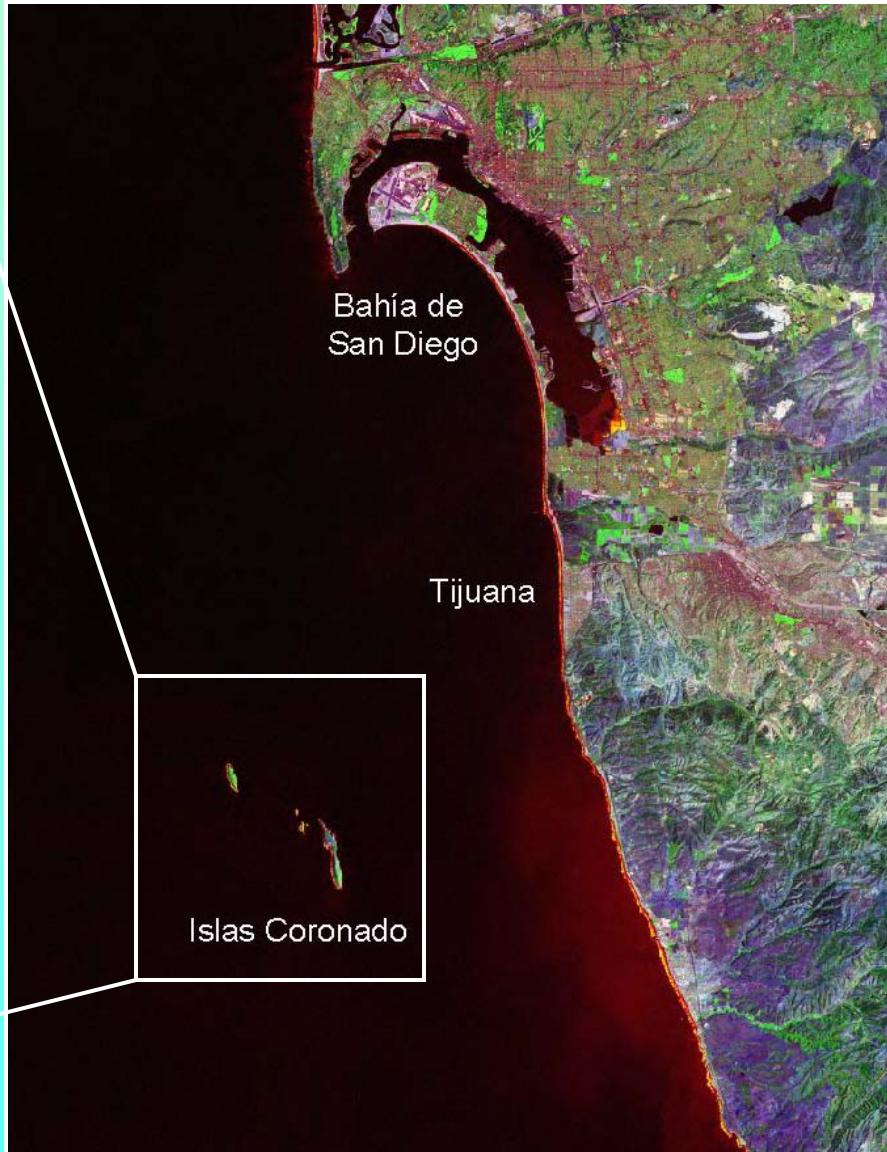
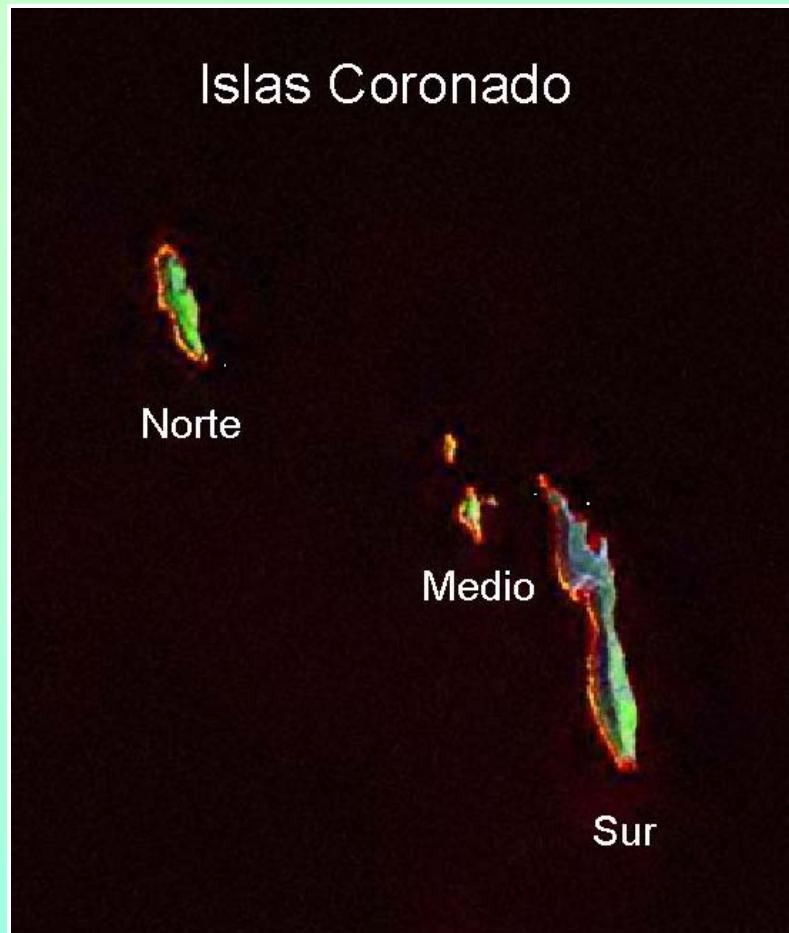


- Article 48 Mexican Constitution: all the islands and islets, surrounding waters, and the sea bottom are Federal Jurisdiction.
- Senate request: Baja California Pacific Islands Biosphere Reserve and Isla Guadalupe restoration (July 23, 2003).

The background image shows a coastal region from an aerial perspective. The terrain is rugged and arid, with brown and tan colors indicating dry land. A prominent feature is a long, narrow, winding body of water, possibly a river or a coastal inlet, which is a deep blue color. The waterway cuts through the land, creating a sharp contrast between the dark water and the lighter, textured earth. The overall scene suggests a remote, possibly desert-like environment near a coast.

General fisical context:
international eco region
Border region
Stressed region
Farthest mexican territory

Coronado Islands



Wildlife

- Endemic plants and animals
- 4 species of endemic reptiles
- 2 subspecies of endemic terrestrial birds
- 1 species of rodent
- Many other native species



Brandt cormoran
(*Phalacrocorax penicillatus*)



Coronado rattle snake
(*Crotalus viridis caliginis*)



Xantus murrelet
(*Synthliboramphus hypoleucus*)



Coronado deer mice
(*Peromyscus maniculatus*
assimilis)

Marine birds and mammals



Elephant seal
(Mirounga angustirostris)

California sea lion
(Zalophus californianus)



Harbor seal
(Phoca vitulina)

- Coronado Islands support the biggest Xantus murrelet's colony (*Synthliboramphus hypoleucus scrippsi*) – protected in Mexico and USA



Other nocturnal marine birds:

- Ash petrel (*Oceanodroma homochroa*)
 - Leach's petrel (*O. leucorhoa willetti*)
 - Black petrel (*O. melania*)
 - Cassin's auklet (*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*)
- All under protection



Leach's petrel
(*Oceanodroma leucorhoa willetti*)

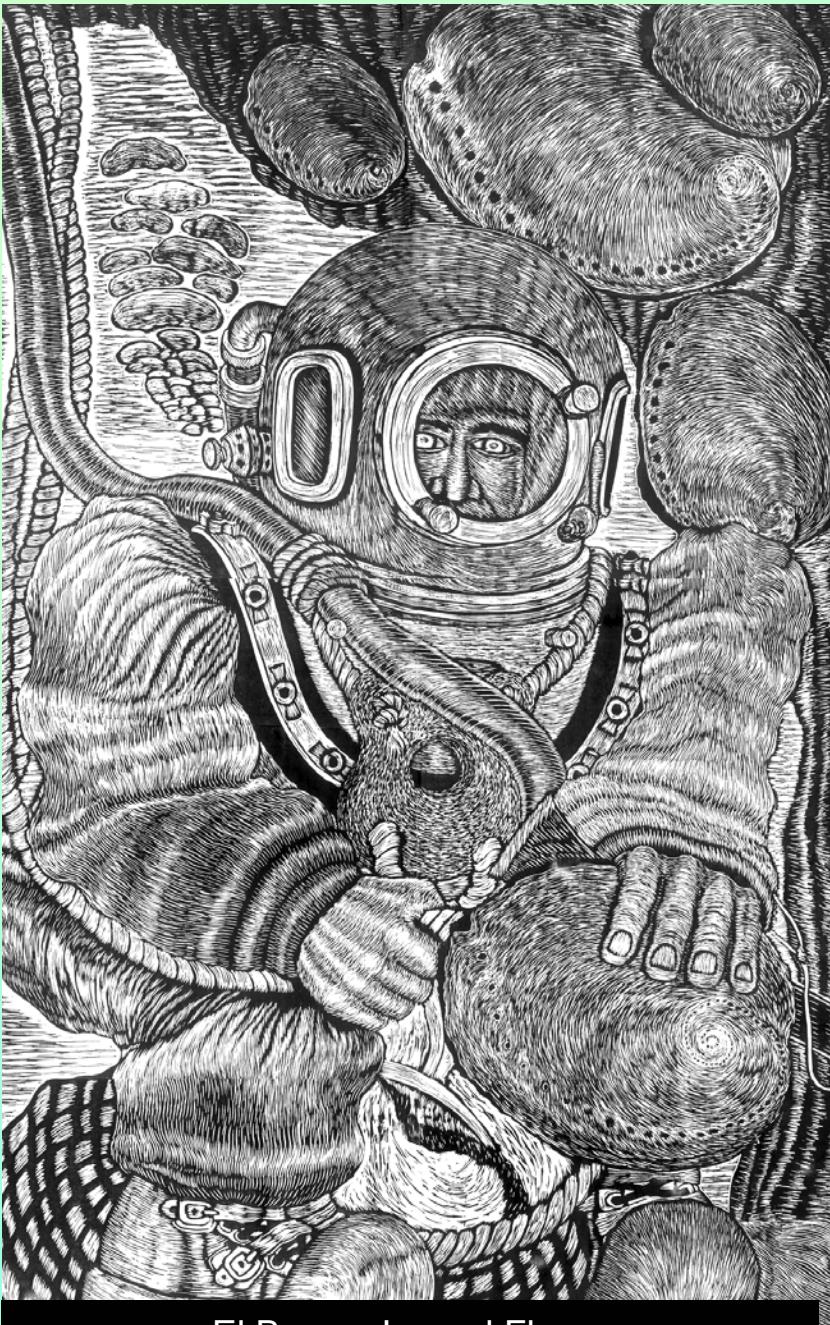


Cassin's auklet
(*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*)

Flora

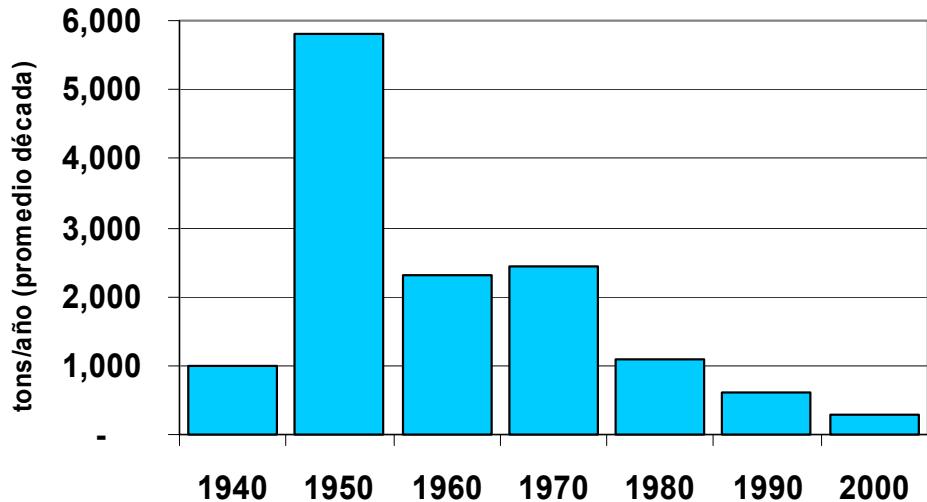
- 4 species of endemic plants



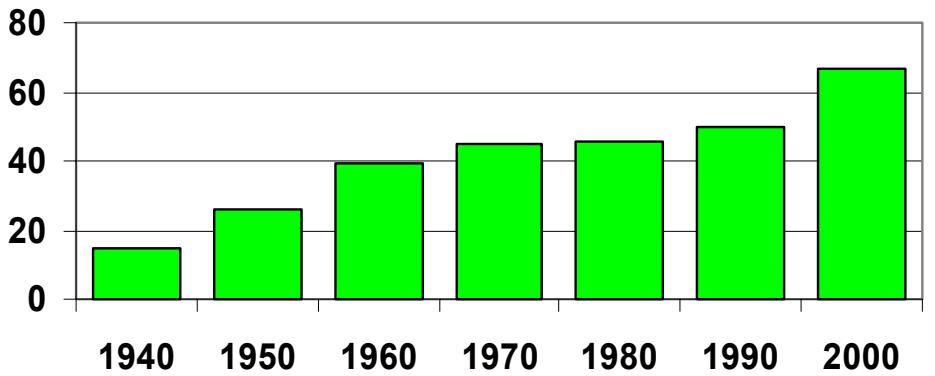


El Buzo – Leonel Flores

Capturas de abulón de Baja California

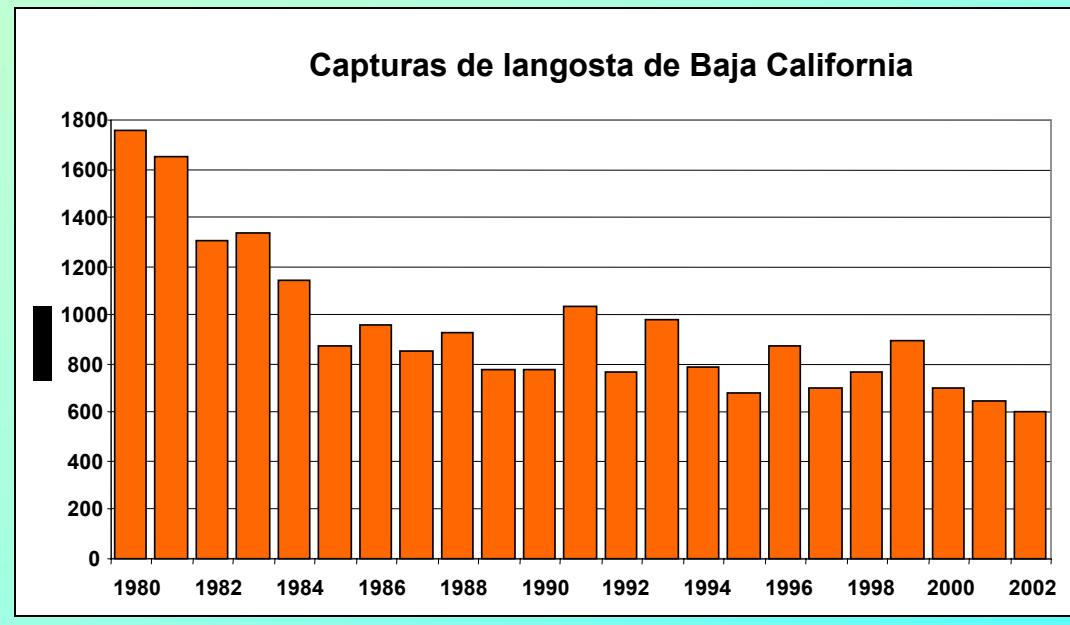


Capturas de abulón de Baja California Contribución de las islas (%)





Pirateando Langosta – Leonel Flores





! ATENCION !

AQUI HABITAN ESPECIES
UNICAS EN EL MUNDO
NO TRAIGA PLANTAS O
ANIMALES. REPORTE LAS
QUE VEA A SEMARNAP

LA FLORA Y FAUNA
SILVESTRE DE ESTA ISLA
SON PROTEGIDAS POR
LEYES FEDERALES
MATARLOS, CAPTURARLO
Y EXTRAERLOS ES
DELITO FEDERAL

PROTECCION
NO PASE
NO TRANSPARE





29

176

24

25



MON 02

























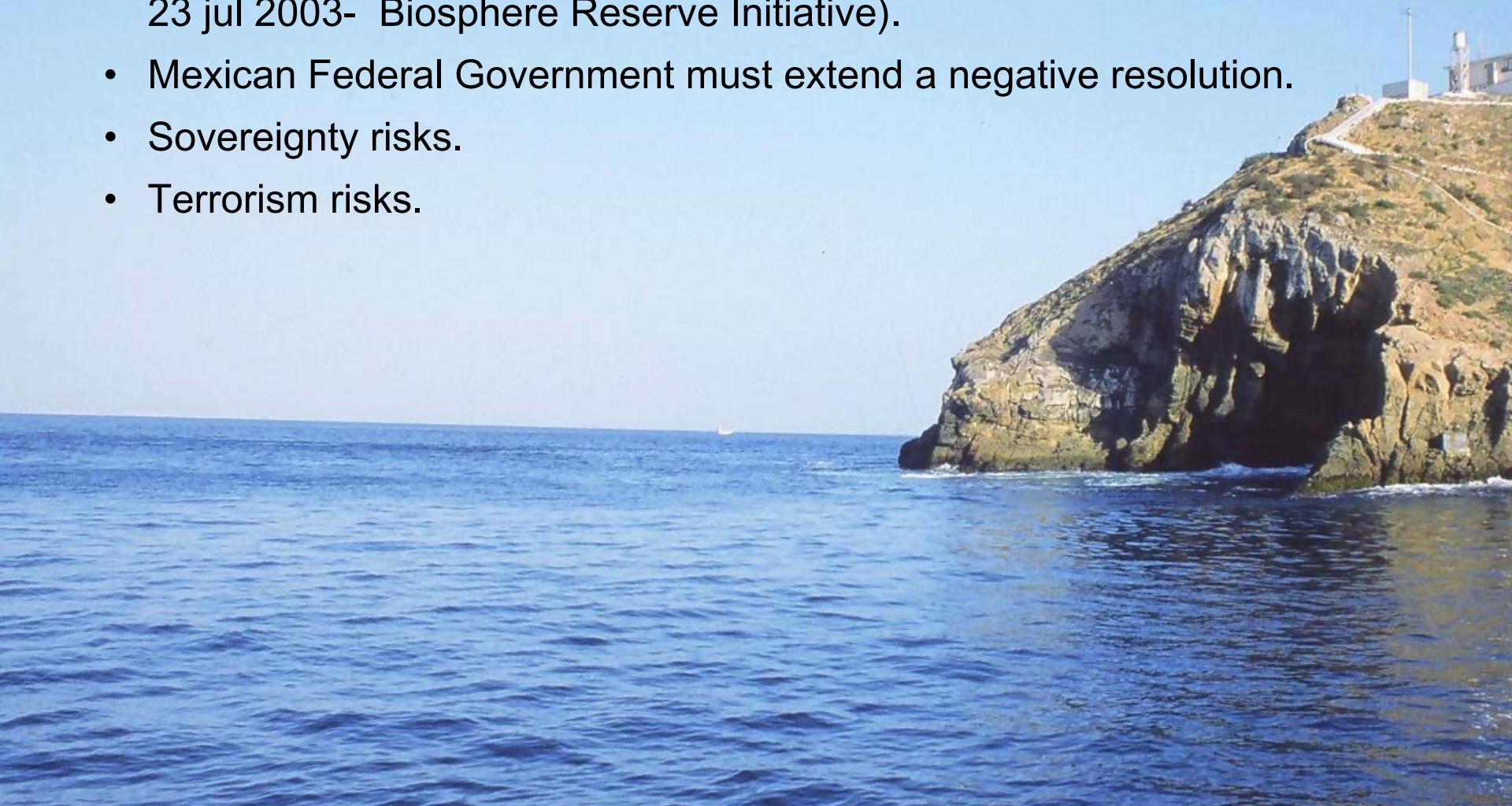




Chevron Texaco project

- Does not consider the negative environmental impacts
- Ignore conservation initiatives
- Does not use the best science and information
- Does not mention prevention or mitigation actions
- Lights, pollution, activities, and sinergic effects mean disruption of island ecosystem´s natural balance

- The LNG terminal, 600 m from Coronado Sur Island, would cause severe and irreversible environmental damages to both terrestrial and marine components of the island ecosystem.
- Activities on and around Coronado islands must be limited by federal approaches published in 2003 (Congreso de la Unión, 23 jul 2003- Biosphere Reserve Initiative).
- Mexican Federal Government must extend a negative resolution.
- Sovereignty risks.
- Terrorism risks.



- SEMARNAT turned a positive resolution to Chevron-Texaco, which we asked to be reviewed.
- \$ 6,500,000 dollars were asked by SEMARNAT as guarantee to temporary stop LNG development.
- The guarantee was out of our reach therefore we asked for the resolution to be reviewed by the next legal instance.
- SEMARNAT's resolution is still under review.



Acknowledgements:

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*Wildcoast